



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1301.6.55.001 - Tasmanian Statistical News, Jun 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 08/06/2010

Summary

Contents

CONTENTS



What's New

Includes: events; projects; publications



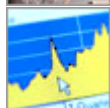
Hot Topics

Includes: latest data and where to find it



How Can We Help

Includes: tips for finding information on the ABS website; services we offer; plus upcoming training and events



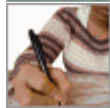
Statistical Literacy

Includes: tips for building your statistical know-how



Recent Releases

Includes: publications containing Tasmanian data that we thought you'd like to know about



Subscribe Me

Includes: how to receive free email notification advising you when a publication has been released; RSS feeds; bookmarking

In this issue

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

September 2010

December 2010

Release Date

7 September 2010

7 December 2010

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the June 2010 issue of Tasmanian Statistical News.

Ever wanted to know how much Tasmanians earn? Or who is actually moving to Tasmania?

Interested in hearing about how early childhood development is being measured? What is the state of public education in Tasmania? This issue's hot topics will answer those questions.

Also discussed in this issue are the use of statistics for evidence-based policy, and aspects of statistical literacy, with a focus on understanding statistical concepts.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

2011 Census is coming!

News from the Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre

Looking for data about your region?

How fit is your data?

Need help in drafting a data quality statement?

New Release - Guide for using statistics for evidence based policy

2011 CENSUS IS COMING!

The 2011 Census is less than 18 months away and the ABS is gearing up for the main event with the establishment of the Census Management Unit (CMU) in the Tasmanian Office. The CMU is busy meeting with government agencies, non-government organisations and the general community to:

- raise awareness
- gather local intelligence
- discuss issues and challenges that may arise before or during the census collection phase
- discuss the issues related to the recruitment of field staff

If you work for an agency that may be able to assist the ABS with any of these areas, please come and have a chat with our Census team or contact Ruth McArdle, our Census Manager, on (03) 6222 5767.

For further information about the Census, contact tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au or check

out our [2011 Census of Population and Housing Local & Regional Engagement Strategy](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.001) or the publication [Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2008.0).

[Back to top](#)

NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESS STATISTICS CENTRE

If you are interested in the value of the various agricultural commodities produced in Australia, keep an eye out for the release of VACP (Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced) estimates for 2008-09, due to be released on 18 June 2010. Published annually, these estimates provide a dollar value for agricultural commodities such as crops, livestock slaughtering and livestock products. Previous year's estimates can be viewed now in [Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia](#) (ABS cat. no. 7503.0).

Since the last issue of this newsletter, Hobart's Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre (BSC) has released commodity and water estimates from the Agricultural Survey 2009. These final estimates for agricultural commodities (i.e. area of production of crops, livestock numbers) can be found in [Agricultural Commodities, Australia](#) (ABS cat. no. 7121.0). Of particular interest to Tasmanian readers are increases in some areas of vegetable production and milk cattle numbers over the last year.

Final water estimates (i.e. type and area of crops irrigated, water sources, irrigation methods) were released on 19 April; see [Water Use on Australian Farms](#) (ABS cat. no. 4618.0).

The BSC is continuing its publication format review and looking to find out more from data users so that environmental and agricultural data can be more easily used by a wider range of individuals. If you have something you would like to contribute to this review process, phone (03) 6222 5846 or email: agriculture.statistics@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

LOOKING FOR DATA ABOUT YOUR REGION?

The latest National Regional Profile (NRP) contains data snapshots for over 2,000 regions across Australia, with five years of data where it is available.

What you will find for each region is a range of data organised into the following headings:

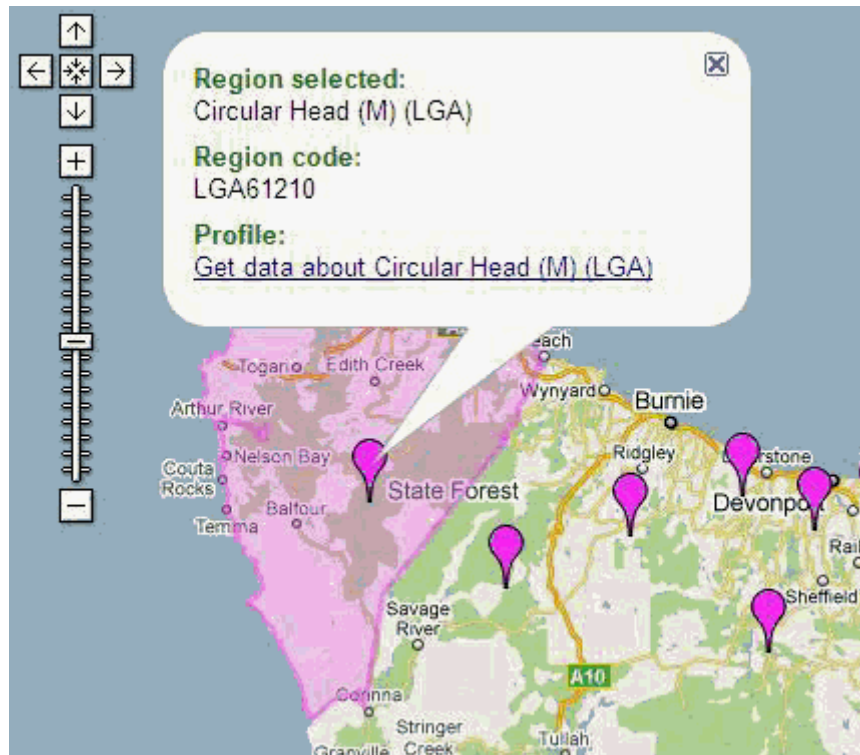
- economy
- population/people
- industry
- environment/energy

The data is from the ABS and other sources, for geographic areas such as Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas right up to state/territory and Australia. The data is presented for all years on common boundaries, making it easy to compare data over time.

Data included for the first time includes estimates of household wealth, age of motor vehicles, water use on Australian farms and selected Government pensions and allowances. Some of the data in the NRP is not released at such small levels anywhere else on the ABS website.

This latest NRP has a very new look to the 'entry' page, which uses an interactive map and

list to find your region of interest.



Screen Shot of NRP Map-interface showing the Local Government Area of Circular Head

As an example, if you were interested in looking at the characteristics of the Local Government Area (LGA) of Hobart, the NRP shows that Hobart had an average value of Private Sector Houses of \$290,800 in 2007-08, a 15.8% increase from the previous year. Hobart also had the highest average taxable income in Tasmania in 2006-07 (\$55,531).

If you want to compare more than a few regions at a time, then you can do this by using the SuperTABLE data cube in the NRP. As an example, you could find that, for Tasmania:

- The LGA of Hobart had the highest average value of private sector houses (2007-08) and the highest average taxable income (2006-07).
- The LGA of Kingborough has had the highest number of approvals of private sector houses since 2005-06. In 2007-08, there were 286 approvals.
- The LGA of Flinders had 981 registered motor vehicles per 1,000 population at 31 March 2008, which was the highest number in the state and above the Tasmanian average of 784.
- Launceston had the highest number of births, with 942 in the year ending 31 December 2008 and the highest number of deaths in the same period (596).
- The LGA of Circular Head had the highest value of agricultural production in Tasmania 2005-06, at \$139,400,000.

The NRP is available from the ABS Home page, or directly from this link: [National Regional Profile](#).

Help using the NRP includes 'How to find a region', 'Comparing regions', and Demonstration Videos.

[Back to top](#)

HOW FIT IS YOUR DATA?

Increasingly there is demand for public policies to be informed by high quality evidence. Good quality statistical information can form an important part of the evidence base for policy work.

So, how do we get "good statistical information"? One answer is DATAfitness.

DATAfitness = good data management practice.

Good data management is one of the foundation stones for building a solid statistical resource for Australia. In simple terms, DATAfitness symbolises the ability to compare apples with apples or being able to compare data which has similar characteristics.

The National Statistical Service (NSS), a community of government agencies led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), is promoting good data management practices through its DATAfitness program. DATAfitness encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management.

The three key elements of DATAfitness are:

- **Metadata Management**, which describes what data is about and where it comes from. Adding metadata about data is essential for bringing data sets together and comparing information from different sources.
- **Data Quality**, which describes data's "fitness for purpose". Data has a range of dimensions which must be understood to determine whether or not data is "fit for purpose" or, put simply, whether it can be used for the desired purpose.
- **Data Sharing**, which describes sharing information as an important part of maximising data use and re-use. Data sharing arrangements facilitate the sharing of data between providers and users and support evidence-based policy and decision-making.

As part of its DATAfitness program, the NSS has developed Data Quality Online (DQO), an easy-to-use online support system for data collectors, providers and users.

DQO is the first of its kind in the world and will provide clear and simple support to those involved in managing data. The system will help users to compile data quality statements and will also provide tailored guidance on statements for indicators used by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The NSS will officially launch DQO in June 2010, in conjunction with the ABS. DQO is based on the nationally recognised ABS Data Quality Framework, which provides a consistent standard for describing the quality of data.

A preliminary version of DQO was released in March 2010, specifically for the purposes of the latest round of COAG National Agreement reporting. For further information on DQO or to take a look at the prototype, visit the NSS website.

The NSS has also released A good practice guide to sharing your data with others. The guide supports quality data sharing across agencies by offering a non-technical introduction and by providing a basic model for making data sharing agreements, which includes factors to consider and how these relate to agencies, staff and data.

For more information on DATAfitness, visit www.nss.gov.au/datafitness or email inquiries@nss.gov.au

NEED HELP IN DRAFTING A DATA QUALITY STATEMENT?

A Data Quality Statement is a presentation of information about the quality of a data item or a collection of data items, using the [ABS Data Quality Framework](#).

The purpose of a Data Quality Statement is to clearly communicate key characteristics of the data which impact on quality, so that potential users can make informed decisions about fitness for use.

Data Quality Statements report both the strengths and limitations of the data.

The [Data Quality Online](#) tool has been developed to assist people in drafting Data Quality Statements and is available on the NSS website.

The tool applies the ABS Data Quality Framework by guiding the user through a range of questions and providing opportunity to download progress at any stage, via XML or PDF format. The tool also provides a range of useful resources and further information on the ABS Data Quality Framework to assist users.

The tool has two main streams: general purpose and information for COAG Performance Indicators within the National Reporting Framework. The COAG stream is available now, providing tailored guidance on statements for COAG indicators. The general stream will be released at the end of the financial year.

[Back to top](#)

NEW RELEASE - GUIDE FOR USING STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE BASED POLICY

The Statistical Literacy Unit at the Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently developed a guide for using statistics for evidence based policy which will be a useful resource for policy and decision makers.

The guide provides useful information about how statistics can be used to make informed policy decisions, and includes the following information:

- What is evidence based decision making?
- How good statistics can enhance the decision making process
- Using statistics for making evidence based decisions
- Data awareness
- Understanding statistical concepts and terminology
- Analysing, interpreting and evaluating statistical information
- Communicating statistical findings
- Evaluating outcomes of policy decisions

The guide is available on the ABS website via the following link: [A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Hot Topics

This document was added or updated on 18/06/2010.



HOT TOPICS

Have you ever wondered how much Tasmanians earn?

Net interstate and overseas migration - who is moving to and from Tasmania?

Early childhood development - what is the Australian Early Development Index?

Tasmanian government schools' improvement reports 2009

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW MUCH TASMANIANS EARN?

There are regular Australian Bureau of Statistics publications that report earnings for the whole state such as Average Weekly Earnings (cat. no. 6302.0) but what about smaller areas in Tasmania?

Results from the recently released Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) reveal that the highest Tasmanian average wage and salary incomes in 2006-07 were recorded for the following Local Government Areas (LGAs):

Local Government Area	Average wage and salary income	Average annual growth rate of average income
	(\$) 2006-07	(%) 2003-04 to 2006-07
West Coast	41,213	6.2
Hobart	40,842	3.8
Kingborough	37,355	3.7
Clarence	37,242	4.1
West Tamar	35,911	3.9
Burnie	35,764	4.4
George Town	35,400	3.8
Waratah/Wynyard	34,961	4.6

Tasmanian LGAs that recorded the lowest earnings during the same time period included:

Local Government Area	Average wage and salary income	Average annual growth rate of average income
	(\$) 2006-07	(%) 2003-04 to 2006-07
Tasman	27,712	3.9
Break O'Day	28,024	5.0
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	28,755	3.2
Dorset	29,135	0.9
Southern Midlands	30,628	4.1
Huon Valley	30,782	5.2
Flinders	31,448	6.3
Kentish	31,727	3.9

The data cubes in the release contain cross-tabulations of the characteristics of wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income for the years

2003-04 to 2006-07.

Most of the data are presented for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) and Local Government Area (LGA) in Australia.

Data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' program to increase the range of regional statistics available, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies.

The Main Features of this latest release includes analysis of the growth of wage and salary income over 2003-04 to 2006-07 at different regional levels (e.g. a table showing capital city/balance of state, maps of Statistical Local Areas) and there are key findings for each state/territory.

Also included is a more 'in depth' analysis of the regions in one state (Western Australia) as an example of how the data can be used to explore the characteristics of regions at a small area level.

[Back to top](#)

NET INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS MIGRATION - WHO IS MOVING TO AND FROM TASMANIA?

In 2008-09, the bulk of those who came from other parts of Australia to Tasmania (72%) were from the eastern states: Queensland (3,654), Victoria (3,216), and New South Wales (2,703). For those Tasmanians who moved to other parts of Australia in 2008-09, over three quarters moved to those same three states: 3,618 to Queensland, 3,616 to Victoria, and 2,283 to New South Wales.

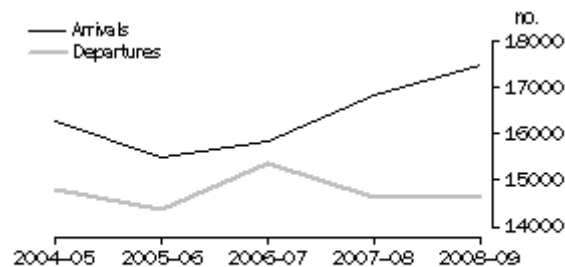
Overall the net migration gain for Tasmania from interstate in 2008-09 was 672 persons. Most of that gain was from New South Wales (+420 persons), Western Australia (+382), and South Australia (+247). Net migration losses were recorded to Victoria (-400) and the Australian Capital territory (-30) in the same period.

In 2008-09, Tasmania recorded losses of persons aged 15-29 years (636 males and 547 females) while every other age group recorded gains.

Overseas arrivals to Tasmania totalled 4,249 persons in 2008-09 while 2,105 Tasmanians moved overseas in the same period, leaving a net overseas migration gain to Tasmania of 2,144 persons.

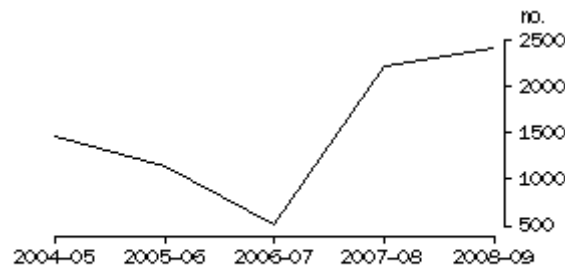
The total population movements in and out of Tasmania in the period 2005-2009 was a gain of 8,000 persons from overseas and a loss of 300 people to other parts of Australia.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, TASMANIA



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)
Migration, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3412.0)

NET MIGRATION, TASMANIA



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)
Migration, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3412.0)

For more information, see [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0) and [Migration, Australia](#) (cat. no. 3412.0).

Also of interest is the recently released Demographic Change Advisory Council's (DCAC) latest Information Paper, **Migration Trends in Tasmania** which highlights migration in and out of Tasmania between 2001 and 2006. A copy of the Information Paper can be found on the DCAC website at www.dcac.tas.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT - WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT INDEX?

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a measure of young children's development.

Some years ago, the Australian Government recognised a need for all communities to have information about early childhood development. As a consequence, the AEDI was developed, with information collected about children in their first year of full-time school.

In 2009, the AEDI was completed nationwide for the first time. Between 1 May and 31 July, information was collected for 97.5% of the estimated five-year-old population in Australia.

Teachers completed a checklist which measured five key areas (or domains), of early childhood development:

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- Communication skills and general knowledge

These areas are closely linked to the predictors of good adult health, education and social outcomes.

The data was used to help create a snapshot of the early childhood development outcomes of Australian children.

What did it show for Tasmania in 2009?

Overall, the average scores for all key areas were the same as for Australia, except for language and cognitive skill (school-based) where Tasmania scored slightly higher than the national total.

The only key area where the percentage of children deemed to be 'developmentally vulnerable' was higher in Tasmania than Australia was for physical health and wellbeing.

The percentage of Tasmanian children classed as 'developmentally at risk' was higher than that for all Australian children for all the key areas except for language and cognitive skill (school-based).

The largest difference between Tasmania and Australia for those children who were on track (and above the 50th percentile) for all key areas was for language and cognitive skill (school-based) where the percentage for Tasmanian children was almost 10% higher.

Key area	Average score (0-10) %	Developmentally vulnerable	Developmentally at risk	On Track	
		Below the 10th percentile %	Between the 10th and 25th percentile %	Between the 25th and 50th percentile %	Above the 50th percentile %
1. Physical health and wellbeing					
Tasmania	9.6	10.0	13.5	22.5	54.0
Australia	9.6	9.3	13.0	21.7	56.0
2. Social competence					
Tasmania	9.2	8.6	16.2	23.2	51.9
Australia	9.2	9.5	15.2	22.8	52.6
3. Emotional maturity					
Tasmania	8.7	8.5	15.6	24.7	51.2
Australia	8.7	8.9	15.5	25.4	50.2
4. Language and cognitive skills (school-based)					
Tasmania	9.6	7.7	11.7	18.9	61.7
Australia	9.2	8.9	14.0	24.9	52.3
5. Communication skills and general knowledge					
Tasmania	9.4	7.0	17.0	18.6	57.4
Australia	9.4	9.2	15.8	20.2	54.8

For more information about the Australian Early Development Index, see the 2009 Report on the AEDI website at www.rch.org.au.

[Back to top](#)

TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS' IMPROVEMENT REPORTS 2009

The Tasmanian Minister for Education and Skills recently released [Tasmania's Education](#)

Performance Report 2009 - Government Schools.

This is the third annual snapshot of the public education system in Tasmania. The release enables comparisons of achievement and improvement since 2007 on a range of measures in the areas of:

- the early years
- literacy and numeracy
- student retention
- school improvement
- equity

Reports on each government school for each of the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 on each of these measures can be accessed at the [school improvement](#) website.

Information on some of the measurement issues involved in the data production can be accessed from the [technical notes](#), also available from the school improvement website.

How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

General statistical inquiries
Upcoming training and events
Statistical training

GENERAL STATISTICAL INQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs, and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 9.00am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

[Online Enquiry Form](#)

To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our [Information Consultancy Services](#) brochure online.

[Back to top](#)

UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS



NatStats 2010 Conference

Registrations Now Open!

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for the NatStats 2010 Conference.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, through its initiative, the National Statistical Service, aims to improve the use and understanding of statistics for Australians.

NatStats 2010 will be held from 15 - 17 September 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. The conference aims to build on the enthusiasm generated by the inaugural NatStats conference held in 2008.

The overall theme for the conference is "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", which will explore drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's progress. Conference speakers will highlight the importance of statistics in understanding and responding to these challenges.

As a participant in the NatStats 2010 Conference, you will have the opportunity to contribute your ideas for improving the Australian statistical system for the future.

Dr Ken Henry AC, Secretary to the Commonwealth Treasury, will deliver the opening plenary address at the conference and the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director of the Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney, will deliver a presentation focused around improving the wellbeing of Australians.

Prof Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, will also be speaking as part of a detailed panel discussion titled, "Measuring progress: from theory to practice", alongside Dr David Gruen, Director of the Macro-Economic Group at the Treasury.

Other NatStats 2010 speakers include Ms Jane Halton PSM, Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing who will speak on the role of statistics in health; and Mr Paul McClintock AO, Chairman of the COAG Reform Council, who will be speaking about the measurement of disadvantage, inequality, and social inclusion. In addition, Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic) of the Reserve Bank of Australia, will together examine some of the changes we can expect to witness in the global economy and the implication for Australia.

For a full list of confirmed speakers, program and registration information, please visit the NatStats Conference website or email natstats@nss.gov.au

NatStats 2010 Event Details

Date: Wednesday 15 - Friday 17 September 2010

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Cost: \$795 Early Bird (Until July 16, 2010)

\$995 Full Fee

Register now and save!

Follow NatStats 2010 on Twitter



2010 International Input-Output Conference

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is the principal sponsor of the 18th international conference on input-output economics which will be held at the University of Sydney from 20-25 June 2010.

The theme of this conference will be "Re-thinking economic growth towards sustainability and wellbeing" and reflects a major challenge the world is facing: to avert dangerous environmental change whilst being able to ensure the well-being for the world's people.

The ABS will be hosting a session about how ABS compiles its own Input-Output (IO) tables, as well as inviting key users to discuss how IO tables are used for modelling policy initiatives. ABS has also invited the OECD to present a paper detailing its methodology for the estimation of embodied carbon emissions in International Trade.

Input-output techniques have proven extremely versatile and powerful tools for decision-makers. In particular, environmental applications of input-output models have enjoyed enormous popularity in recent years. However, there is still a lot to do in making input-output tools more widely known across non-expert circles, and remove barriers to the development of understanding and appreciation of, and trust in the results that input-output models provide.

If you are interested in finding out more about the International Input-Output Conference, please see the following link [Conference on Input-Output Economics](#) or email isa@physics.usyd.edu.au

[Back to top](#)

NEED SOME STATISTICAL TRAINING?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides training on a range of topics to develop skills for high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis.

Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in areas such as:

- questionnaire design
- data analysis
- survey management

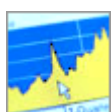
The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues.

The following link will take you to a list of some of the courses that the Tasmanian Office of the ABS has run: [Tas Training Courses](#).

If the training requirements of your organisation are not met in the list of courses above, the ABS can customise training according to your needs. Please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au and one of our consultants will phone you to discuss how the ABS can help you.

[Back to top](#)

Statistical Literacy



STATISTICAL LITERACY

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

Making sense of statistics is vital for informed decision-making. To build your statistical know-how check out [Understanding Statistics](#) on the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au/understandingstatistics. There are some excellent resources contained within these pages, some are very basic, whilst others go in to more depth. There are quizzes, video tutorials and online presentations. A great resource for anyone wanting to know more about statistics and the ABS website.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICAL CONCEPTS

In today's information-rich society, we encounter statistical information on a daily basis, ranging from unemployment rates, retail figures and cancer rates, to football ladders and cricket scores. Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. Statistics are essential for research, planning and decision-making purposes.

There are several concepts that recur throughout the literature on statistical literacy. These fall into four key areas and can be considered in a practical manner as 'criteria' on which to base statistical literacy:

1. Data awareness
2. The ability to understand statistical concepts
3. The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
4. The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings

In this issue, we will continue our focus on understanding statistical concepts. Proportions present data in a standardised way which allows simple but meaningful comparisons to be made. Proportions can be expressed as:

- percentages
- rates

- ratios

Percentages

Percentage is the term used to express a number as a fraction of one hundred. It is symbolised using the percent sign %.

Percentage is commonly used to represent statistical data; it is considered an important tool to illustrate the proportion of something. The percentage total of a data set should always add up to 100 except in special circumstances. Percentages larger than the value of 100 often occur in financial situations, say for instance if a item originally costing \$1 was sold for \$1 then the profit would be 0%, if the same item was sold for \$2 then the profit would be 100%, and selling it for \$3 would be a 200% profit.

The percentage of a data set can be calculated by dividing a component value by the total value; and then multiplying that value by 100.

Percentage % = (Value / Total) X 100%

Example

Of students attending a tutorial group, three were male and four were female. We want to know what percentage of the group was female.

To calculate this, divide the number of female students by the total number of students in the group, then multiply by 100.

$$(4 / 7) \times 100 = 57.1\%$$

Percentage represents the proportions of known values. By using a percentage to represent the data you provide the reader with an easy to read summary statistic. There can be downfalls of using the percentage. Percentages are not additive, as each percentage calculation is worked out on the new value.

Percentage change

Percentage change is a useful measure to identify change over time as an easy to read summary statistic. To calculate percentage change: new minus old, divided by old and multiply by 100.

Example

According to the 1996 Census, the population of Tasmania was 464,546. In 2006 it was 476,481. During that 10 year period, Tasmania's population increased by 11,935 persons. This represented a percentage change of 2.6%.

$$(476,481 - 464,546) / 464,546 \times 100 = 2.6\%$$

Rates

A rate is a measurement of one quantity in relation to another. For example, the ABS uses a

rate to express the number of persons who are unemployed. It is the number of unemployed persons in relation to the labour force (employed + unemployed persons), not the total population.

Example

In October 2008, Tasmania experienced its lowest unemployment rate on record. There were 242,000 employed persons and 9,300 unemployed persons, creating a total labour force of 251,300 persons. To calculate the unemployment rate, divide the number of unemployed by the total labour force then multiply by 100:

$$(9,300 / 251,300) \times 100 = 3.7\%$$

In this instance, the unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage because it is calculated as a proportion of 100. Other rates, such as the birth rate may be expressed as a proportion of 1000. That is, the number of births per 1000 of population.

Ratios

Ratios are used to identify the meaning of actual data counts. For example, the sex ratio of births is the number of male live births per 100 female live births.

Example

In 2007, there were 3,393 male live births in Tasmania, and 3,269 female live births. To calculate the sex ratio, divide male live births by female live births and multiply by 100.

$$(3,393 / 3,269) \times 100 = 103.8$$

For further explanation of terms see [Statistical Language!](#) (ABS cat. no. 1332.0.55.002)

In upcoming issues of Tasmanian Statistical News we will discuss other statistical literacy concepts in more detail. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about statistical literacy and its relevance to you, check out the article: [What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?](#) as featured in [Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators](#) (ABS cat. no. 1307.6) or visit the [Understanding Statistics](#) portal on the ABS website.

Recent Releases



RECENT RELEASES

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

20/05/10 [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Feb 2010](#) (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)

Contains estimates of average weekly ordinary time earnings and average weekly total earnings for full-time adult employees and average weekly total earnings for all employees, classified by sector and state or territory and by industry at the Australian level, for males,

females and persons.

17/05/10 Lending Finance, Australia, Mar 2010 (ABS cat. no. 5671.0)

Contains time series data on the value of monthly commitments for secured housing finance, other personal finance, commercial and lease finance. Includes summary tables of personal and commercial finance commitments under fixed and revolving credit facilities, the value of goods under finance lease commitments, and the value of personal, commercial and lease finance commitments by purpose. Also included are thematic tables on the financing of housing, motor vehicles and plant and equipment.

14/05/10 International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Calendar Year, 2009 (ABS cat. no. 5368.0.55.004)

The spreadsheets contain trade in services credits and debits data for: country and country groups by calendar years; calendar years by country and country groups; state by calendar years; calendar years by state; detailed travel service by calendar years by country and country groups; and education related travel credits by calendar years by educational sector by type of expenditure. A full range of data is available from 2000.

05/05/10 Education and Training Experience, State and Territory Tables, Australia, 2009 (ABS cat. no. 6278.0.55.005)

Presents results from the 2009 Survey of Education and Training Experience for all States and Territories. Data provided focuses on participation in education and training; completed qualifications; level and field of educational attainment; details of training courses completed; training outcomes; difficulties, barriers and employer support to education and training.

04/05/10 Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Tasmania, 2006 (ABS cat. no. 4713.6.55.001)

Presents around 50 tables of information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for Tasmania based on the 2006 Census. These electronic tables complement the information presented in the national publication Population Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 4713.0). Topics covered in the national report and sets of tables for Australia and each State/Territory include: the demographic and geographic distribution of the population and its growth in recent years; mobility; household composition; language and religion; education; work; income; housing and transport; and need for assistance.

27/04/10 Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2008-09 (ABS cat. no. 5506.0)

This publication presents statistics on taxation revenue collected by the various levels of government in Australia. The taxation revenue statistics presented are based on Government Finance Statistics (GFS) concepts and are compiled on an accrual basis, for the general government sector.

19/04/10 Water Use on Australian Farms, 2008-09 (ABS cat. no. 4618.0)

This publication presents estimates of agricultural water use (including pastures and crops irrigated), irrigation water sources, irrigation methods, irrigation water management and irrigation expenditure and assets. Estimates are presented at Australia, State/Territory, Statistical Division (SD), Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) levels. Additional datacubes will be released at a later time as necessary.

08/04/10 Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Tasmania, Dec 2009 (ABS cat. no. 8635.6.55.001)

Contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. Data provide information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading.

01/04/10 Job Vacancies, Australia, Feb 2010 (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)

Contains estimates of the number of job vacancies with state and territory and industry dissections.

30/03/10 Internet Activity, Australia, Dec 2009 (ABS cat. no. 8153.0)

Contains details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Australia. It includes information on internet subscribers and their type of connection, the type of user (business/household), the volume of data downloaded, the speed of the internet connection and the location of the subscriber (by state or territory).

16/03/10 Schools, Australia, 2009 (ABS cat. no. 4221.0)

This release contains state, territory and national statistics for schools, students and staff at the 2009 census date of the 7th August.

12/03/10 Criminal Courts, Australia, 2008-09 (ABS cat. no. 4513.0)

Provides nationally comparable data showing the number of defendants dealt with by the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate), Magistrates' and Children's criminal courts. Includes details on the characteristics of defendants (such as age and sex), and outcomes associated with adjudicated defendants (including sentence type) by the type of principal offence committed. Information is presented for each state and territory (including the aggregate total for Australia) and for each of the three court levels.

Subscribe Me



SUBSCRIBE ME

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

If you wish to provide feedback or subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Clara Herbert on (03) 6222 5836 or email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au. We also encourage you to place this newsletter on your organisation's intranet.

FUTURE STATISTICAL RELEASES

Want to keep up with the latest releases of ABS products? Subscribe to our [free email notification service](#).

RSS FEEDS

[RSS \(Really Simple Syndication\)](#) is an alternative way to view the latest statistical information released on the ABS website. You can access RSS feeds for ABS product releases as well as ABS national statistical headlines.

BOOKMARKS

Did you know you can also bookmark specific ABS statistical products or selected pages on the ABS website? Follow our step-by-step instructions for [bookmarking](#) on the ABS website.

ABS MOBILE

Keep in touch with the latest statistics when you are on the move with ABS Mobile.

You can access our handheld edition at: www.abs.gov.au/mobile.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ABS has implemented a handheld stylesheet that removes images. This enables us to provide you fast loading pages while on a handheld device. Please note that as a result, some graphs and other images may be removed and to see the full statistical product you should visit the full version of the ABS website.

About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

History of Changes

18/06/2010 - The table of Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) scores for Tasmania and Australia for 2009 has been updated to correct data row misalignments in the previous version. All other data and text remain unchanged.

